

**In the Abstract:**

Please amend the abstract, as follows:

AS  
~~An improved excitation enhancement system is provided for speech coding systems. As speech data applications continue to operate in areas having intrinsic bandwidth limitations, the perceptual quality of reproduced speech data in typical speech coding systems suffers. The invention employs~~ There are provided short term enhancement methods and systems to improve perceptual quality in reproduced speech. The short term enhancement is may be performed on the fixed codebook in eXtended code excited linear prediction (eX-CELP) or may be performed as post-processing in the decoder According to one aspect, a method of enhancing a speech signal includes processing said speech signal to generate a plurality of frames, wherein each of said plurality frames includes a plurality of subframes, coding a previous subframe of said plurality of subframes using Code-Excited Linear Prediction to generate a previous excitation signal, and applying short term enhancement on said previous excitation signal to enhance a current excitation signal for a current subframe.